

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 1053 2X

September 30, 2011

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

☐ Notice of Exemption ☒ Petition for Exemption ☐ Regulated Abandonment

☐ **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on August 30, 2011, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended 2 environmental conditions.

In an email dated August 19, 2011, MAL Railway submitted a report by Mr. Thomas M. Smith, licensed surveyor, to the NGS indicating that the 4 geodetic survey markers that it had identified as potentially being located with the right-of-way could not be located and were presumed destroyed.

In an email dated August 26, 2010, the NGS stated that MAL Railway had completed all that was required.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following environmental condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The condition is:

Michigan Air-Line Railway Company shall, during salvage of the rail line, access the Line using only existing roads and streets that cross the railroad's right-of-way to ensure that salvage operations do not impact any federally listed threatened or endangered species.

OEA also recommends that the following environmental condition previously recommended in the EA should be removed:

Michigan Air-Line Railway Company shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey at least 90 days prior to the beginning of salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.

If the single environmental condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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